

# 2005-2007 IT PLAN Summary - Agency Budget Request

## 00180 JUDICIAL BRANCH

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2005B0100180

### AGENCY IT PLAN CONTACT DATA

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### AGENCY IT OVERVIEW

The North Dakota Judicial System is a co-equal branch, which consists of the Supreme Court, District Courts, and Municipal Courts. Together, these courts form a judicial team that has responsibility for providing an equal and fair system of justice to the citizens of North Dakota.

**The mission of the North Dakota Judicial Branch is:**

To resolve disputes with justice and efficiency.

In 1976, a new judicial article to the North Dakota constitution began a transformation of the state courts from a partially decentralized structure to the unified, three-level organization that exists today.

The Judicial Branch consists of the Supreme Court and District Courts and employs over 330 people in 7 judicial districts supporting judicial services in all 53 counties and approximately 80 Municipal Courts.

The Supreme Court is the appellate court of last resort; the District Courts are the general jurisdiction trial courts, the juvenile courts, and the first-level appellate courts in some instances; and the Municipal Courts hear local ordinance violations.

#### The Supreme Court:

The Supreme Court is the highest court in the State of North Dakota. The Supreme Court has original jurisdiction in some cases and provides a court of appellate jurisdiction for the public. The Supreme Court also has administrative supervision over all courts of North Dakota, including all justices and judges and has constitutional authority to adopt rules of procedure for the judicial system.

Ultimate responsibility for the efficient operation of the judicial system resides with the Supreme Court. The Constitution establishes the Supreme Court's administrative responsibility for the judicial system by designating the Chief Justice as the administrative head of the judicial system. To help it fulfill the administrative and supervisory responsibilities, the Supreme Court relies upon the state court administrator, presiding judges, and various advisory committees, commissions, and boards. The state court administrator, appointed by the chief justice, is tasked with the responsibility of assisting the Supreme Court in preparing judicial budgets, providing for judicial education services, coordinating technical assistance to all levels of courts, planning for state-wide judicial

## 2005-2007 IT PLAN Summary - Agency Budget Request

needs, and administering a personnel system.

### The District Court:

The District Courts are courts of general jurisdiction in North Dakota. They have original and general jurisdiction in all cases, including criminal, felony and misdemeanor cases, general jurisdiction for civil cases, and has appellate jurisdiction provided by law in some instances.

The District Courts also serve as the juvenile courts in the state and have exclusive and original jurisdiction over any minor who is alleged to be unruly, delinquent, or deprived.

The state is divided into seven judicial districts. In each judicial district a presiding judge supervises court services of all courts in the district. There are District Court services in each of the state's fifty-three counties. All of the judicial districts have court administrative personnel who work with governmental agencies, budgets, facilities, records management, personnel, and contract administration. The Clerk of District Court carries out the record keeping functions for the District and Juvenile Court.

### The Judicial Conduct Commission & Disciplinary Board:

The Judicial Conduct Commission has the responsibility, power, and duty to investigate complaints against any judges of the State of North Dakota and to conduct hearings concerning the discipline, removal, or retirement of any such judge. The Disciplinary Board of the Supreme Court serves the same function in receiving and investigating complaints against attorneys of this state. The professional discipline of judges and attorneys is intended to protect the public from incompetent and unfit individuals.

### **Judicial Branch Size and Locations**

Judicial services are provided within each of North Dakota's 53 counties, at county courthouses and municipal courthouses. These services are provided with the support and cooperation of 330+ state employees, many county employees and municipal court employees.

The 1999 legislature passed legislation that provides alternatives to counties for state funding of all judicial services. The decisions regarding which options to choose are to be made by each individual county. Personnel in the clerks of court offices in 11 counties have become state employees; 42 counties have chosen to contract with the State Court Administrators Office for funding of clerk services.

## AGENCY TECHNOLOGY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

**Goal 1: Expand the use and availability of data from judicial case management systems.**

Objective 1: Increase the use of and accessibility to the Unified Court Information System and Data Warehouse by judicial districts, court employees, criminal justice personnel and others.

Objective 2: Continue to enhance the Unified Court Information System, Juvenile Case Management System and Jury Management system to meet the evolving needs of the Judicial Branch.

Objective 3: Evaluate the effectiveness of existing case management systems and possible alternatives to assess their long-term viability to meet the needs of the Judicial Branch and implement solutions to meet the identified needs.

## 2005-2007 IT PLAN Summary - Agency Budget Request

Objective 4: Evaluate and implement methods of integration with other entities and computer other information systems.

### **Goal 2: Ensure efficient management of IT Resources.**

Objective 1: Centralize purchase, setup and support of computer hardware within the State Court Administrator's office.

Objective 2: Evaluate and implement appropriate methods for improving the level of support for the computer users and of providing support more efficiently.

Objective 3: Evaluate and implement appropriate technology solutions to reduce the cost of ownership for personal computers and information systems.

Objective 4: Evaluate and implement technology advancements to increase the efficiency of judicial employees.

### **Goal 3: Provide appropriate technology training to information system users.**

Objective 1: Evaluate and implement efficient and effective methods of information system training.

Objective 2: Evaluate and implement appropriate training methods and classes.

Objective 3: Identify IT staff training needs and acquire appropriate training.

### **Goal 4: Update and maintain infrastructure to maximize efficiency of employees**

Objective 1: Replace IT equipment according to an established replacement schedule and as necessary.

Objective 2: Maintain acceptably current versions of software applications.

Objective 3: Implement methods to increase automation and information sharing.

### **Goal 5: Make judicial services and information more accessible.**

Objective 1: Evaluate and implement methods to improve efficiency of providing judicial services to rural areas of the state.

Objective 2: Evaluate and implement appropriate methods of providing easy and timely access to judicial information systems. Ongoing

Objective 3: Increase the accessibility of judicial information systems through electronic data sharing.



00180 JUDICIAL BRANCH

Version: 2005B0100180

Number of Desktop Computers	413	Windows 98	5
Number of Desktop Computers planned to be replaced	207	Wndows NT	1
Aveage cost of Desktop Computer Replacements	827	Windows 2000	27
Number of Laptop Computers	72	Windows XP	26
Number of Laptop Computers Planned to be replaced	36	Other	42
Aveage cost of Laptop Computer Replacements	1918		

Number of PC's by Region

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4	11	7	14	18	11	28	6

Agency Technology Activities

There are several information systems currently supporting court operations in the Judicial Branch.

**UCIS** - Unified Court Information System - a case management software system used to automate case processing for the District Courts. Currently, all 53 counties and 7 municipal courts use UCIS. UCIS runs on a Judicial Branch IBM AS400 mid-range computer.

**SCDS** - Supreme Court Docket System - the current software program was developed under contract for the Supreme Court to automate case processing for the Supreme Court. SCDS uses a MS SQL database on a Judicial Branch Windows server.

**JCMS** - Juvenile Case Management System - a case management software system purchased by the State Court Administrators Office to automate and track proceedings for the Juvenile Courts. JCMS is installed in all juvenile courts statewide. JCMS uses an Oracle database on a Judicial Branch Windows server.

**Jury Management System** - a software program developed by the State Court Administrator's Office to automate jury services in the District Courts. This system operates as a network based, client server system and is currently used in 35 counties.

**Disciplinary Board System** - A software system developed for the Supreme Court that is used to assist with tracking of disciplinary measures against attorneys. This system uses a MS SQL server database on a Judicial Branch Windows server.

**Demands for Change of Judge System** - A software system developed for the Supreme Court that is used to assist with tracking of demands to remove judges from specific cases. This system uses a MS SQL server database on a Judicial Branch Windows server.

**State Court Data Warehouse** - A web-based inquiry system for providing access to selected UCIS data. Access is given to over 200 criminal justice related personnel.

**Supreme Court internet web site** - A generally accessible, award winning web site providing judicial information to the employees, attorneys and the public.

**Email and other administrative systems** - MS Windows servers are used for providing email access, data storage and other administrative functions to the State Court Administrator's Office, the Supreme Court, the District Courts and Juvenile Courts.

A computer network consisting of network hubs is connected through the state's data network (Stagenet). This network provides the connectivity for automated case management systems and administrative systems throughout the Judicial Branch. It is important to note that all of the county District Court locations are currently connected to the network. This connection provides access to email, the statewide child support data system, administrative systems

and to UCIS

# IT Capture Infrastructure Budget Details - Agency Budget Request

Page 14 of 68

00180 JUDICIAL BRANCH

Date: 11/29/2004

2005B0100180

Time: 3:56:02PM

		Current Appropriation	Budget Request	Optional Adjustments	Request Plus Optionals	Subsequent Biennium
<b>10</b>	<b>SALARIES AND WAGES 181</b>					
	<b>SALARIES, WAGES &amp; BENEFITS</b>	<b>\$896,793</b>	<b>\$1,000,398</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,000,398</b>	<b>\$726,426</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$896,793</b>	<b>\$1,000,398</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,000,398</b>	<b>\$726,426</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>OPERATING EXPENSES 181</b>					
IT3002	IT-DATA PROCESSING	\$497,448	\$540,952	\$0	\$540,952	\$451,830
IT3003	IT TELEPHONE	\$413,991	\$444,244	\$0	\$444,244	\$391,405
IT3005	IT SOFTWARE/SUPPLIES	\$228,900	\$198,150	\$0	\$198,150	\$171,375
IT3008	IT CONTRACTUAL SVCS & REPAIRS	\$479,607	\$439,532	\$0	\$439,532	\$380,335
IT3038	IT EQUIPMENT UNDER \$5000	\$412,075	\$354,251	\$0	\$354,251	\$325,131
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,032,021</b>	<b>\$1,977,129</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,977,129</b>	<b>\$1,720,076</b>
<b>50</b>	<b>CAPITAL ASSETS 181</b>					
TI5016	IT EQUIPMENT \$5000 & OVER	\$0	\$8,000	\$0	\$8,000	\$0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$8,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$8,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>70</b>	<b>JUDICIAL CONDUCT COMM &amp; DISCIPLINARY BRD</b>					
IT3002	IT-DATA PROCESSING	\$2,057	\$1,800	\$0	\$1,800	\$0
IT3003	IT TELEPHONE	\$5,164	\$5,655	\$0	\$5,655	\$0
IT3005	IT SOFTWARE/SUPPLIES	\$1,500	\$1,700	\$0	\$1,700	\$0
IT3008	IT CONTRACTUAL SVCS & REPAIRS	\$2,000	\$750	\$0	\$750	\$0
IT3038	IT EQUIPMENT UNDER \$5000	\$5,200	\$1,980	\$0	\$1,980	\$0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,921</b>	<b>\$11,885</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$11,885</b>	<b>\$0</b>

Funding Source



# IT Capture Project Details - Agency Budget Request

Date: 11/30/2004

Time 7:40:42AM

00180 JUDICIAL BRANCH

Version 2005B0100180

Project: Interactive Television

Priority - 3 Ongoing Initiative

**Project Description**

This project seeks to install interactive television (ITV) systems that would allow parties to appear via ITV for proceedings that would otherwise be delayed to avoid the time and expense of travel and for the convenience of the participants. It is intended to enhance access and availability to judicial services in areas where a judge is not chambered, and to enhance public safety by transporting in-custody hearing participants less often.

**Description of Business Need or Problem Driving the Project**

There are increasing demands for judicial services being placed on judges statewide. In an effort to meet those needs, the Judicial Branch continually strives to seek more efficient ways of delivering judicial services. Reducing travel time for hearing participants is one method expected to help deliver judicial services more efficiently.

ITV is expected to be expanded through installations in counties where detention centers are not co-located with the courthouse.

**Description of how Project is Consistent with the Organization's Mission**

The mission of the Judicial Branch is to resolve disputes with justice and efficiency. Efforts to use interactive television system to increase efficiency are consistent with the mission.

**Description of the Anticipated Benefits**

Installation of interactive television will allow parties to appear from remote locations. Benefits include:

- More efficient delivery of judicial services to counties. This includes links to high case volume counties where judges are not chambered.
- Expedite and improve judicial services to rural areas of the state.
- Conduct court proceedings in a timelier manner.
- Reduce travel time for judges, staff and others using the judicial system.
- The ability to conduct proceedings involving the incarcerated inmates in locations away from courthouses where ITV is available, thereby providing a higher level of security and reducing the cost of transporting incarcerated defendants.
- Reduce witness travel for medical professionals participating in mental health proceedings.
- Reduce witness travel for expert witnesses.
- The ability to conduct training for judges and court personnel via teleconference between courthouses in the state, to reduce participant travel.

# IT Capture Project Details - Agency Budget Request

Date: 11/30/2004

Time 7:40:42AM

00180 JUDICIAL BRANCH

Version 2005B0100180

Project: Interactive Television

## Description of the Impact of NOT Implementing the Project

If interactive television is not used, the benefits and efficiencies listed will not be realized. Judicial services will be provided, but not as efficiently as may be possible.

## Identify any Risks Associated with the Project

There is a possibility that participants will not embrace the technology. To mitigate, we will work collaboratively with potential participants through all stages of the project.

Network communications may be inadequate to provide video services.

Installation into aging courthouses can be costly.

To mitigate these risks, we will review the courthouses and network services carefully prior to purchase and installation.

## Description of Additional Cost, if Any, for the Project

There are no additional costs beyond those budgeted.

Additional Costs for the project that are not included in IT Object Codes

Additional Costs -

Optional Project Costs

**Total Project Cost -**

**Total Project Cost + Optionals**

## Description of Non-Appropriated Funds -

There are no additional expenditures being paid out of non-appropriated funds.

	<u>CURRENT</u> <u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>REQUEST</u>	<u>OPTIONAL</u> <u>ADJUSTMENT</u>	<u>REQUEST PLUS</u> <u>OPTIONALS</u>	<u>SUBSEQUENT</u> <u>BIENNIUM</u>
<b>IT3038</b> IT EQUIPMENT UNDER \$5000	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$155,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$155,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$155,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$155,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>001</b> STATE GENERAL FUND		<b>\$155,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$155,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Total Funding:</b>		<b>\$155,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$155,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>

# IT Capture Project Details - Agency Budget Request

Date: 11/30/2004

Time 7:40:42AM

00180 JUDICIAL BRANCH

Version 2005B0100180

Project: Enhanced Records Management System

Priority - 1 Ongoing Initiative

**Project Description**

This project seeks to implement an Enhanced Records Management System (ERMS) in the North Dakota Judicial Branch.

An ERMS for the Unified Judicial Branch is intended to preserve court information, promote greater accessibility to that information, and reduce operational and records storage costs within the Judicial Branch.

An ERMS will result in the creation of an electronic case folder which will replace the current paper case folders housed and stored in courthouses across the state.

**Description of Business Need or Problem Driving the Project**

The need to access court records both simultaneously and remotely is increasing.

Costs to store paper court case information records are increasing as the volume of records being stored increases.

An enhanced records management system may be integrated with an electronic filing system to provide a complete electronic document management system.

**Description of how Project is Consistent with the Organization's Mission**

The mission of the Judicial Branch is to resolve disputes with justice and efficiency.

The use of an enhanced records management system will help increase efficiency by allowing judges, court personnel and others to access the case folder wherever the folder may be and access it at the same time as others across the judicial system or state.

**Description of the Anticipated Benefits**

# IT Capture Project Details - Agency Budget Request

Date: 11/30/2004

Time 7:40:42AM

00180 JUDICIAL BRANCH

Version 2005B0100180

**Project: Enhanced Records Management System**

The benefits of this project include:

- Providing the capability for clerks of court to file and store case documents electronically.
- Counter and telephone questions regarding case pleadings can be answered much more quickly without accessing paper files.
- Documents would be instantly accessible from the bench, judge's office, or clerk's office.
- Security is maintained on a centralized document storage system.
- Case pleadings would be available from remote sites via the internet.
- Actual location of the hard copy case file becomes less relevant because the documents are stored electronically and accessible via computer.
- As storage of hard copies becomes less relevant, their storage could also be less expensive by storing them in a remote site.
- Allow for ease of faxing documents to support correctional agencies.
- Clerk personnel could prepare cases on appeal from their desks, rather than having to retrieve actual paper copies.
- Use of imaging would allow clerks to handle an increasing workload without additional full time equivalent personnel being added.

## Description of the Impact of NOT Implementing the Project

### Identify any Risks Associated with the Project

Users of the case information may not be willing to accept dramatic changes in how the records are stored and accessed. To mitigate, we will work actively and collaboratively with all interested parties.

Vendors must be able to adequately redesign the business processes to take advantage of the workflow components ERMS provides. The vendor selected must be proficient in such tasks. To mitigate, we will select vendors with proven history of successfully implementing similar projects

### Description of Additional Cost, if Any, for the Project

# IT Capture Project Details - Agency Budget Request

Date: 11/30/2004

Time 7:40:42AM

00180 JUDICIAL BRANCH

Version 2005B0100180

Project: Enhanced Records Management System

There are no additional costs beyond those budgeted.

Additional Costs for the project that are not included in IT Object Codes

Additional Costs -

Optional Project Costs

**Total Project Cost -**

**Total Project Cost + Optionals**

## Description of Non-Appropriated Funds -

There are no additional expenditures being paid of non-appropriated funds.

		<u>CURRENT</u> <u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>REQUEST</u>	<u>OPTIONAL</u> <u>ADJUSTMENT</u>	<u>REQUEST PLUS</u> <u>OPTIONALS</u>	<u>SUBSEQUENT</u> <u>BIENNIUM</u>
<b>IT3008</b>	IT CONTRACTUAL SVCS & REPAIRS	<b>\$108,708</b>	<b>\$225,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$225,000</b>	<b>\$281,250</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$108,708</b>	<b>\$225,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$225,000</b>	<b>\$281,250</b>
<b>001</b>	STATE GENERAL FUND		<b>\$225,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$225,000</b>	<b>\$281,250</b>
<b>Total Funding:</b>			<b>\$225,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$225,000</b>	<b>\$281,250</b>

# IT Capture Project Details - Agency Budget Request

Date: 11/30/2004

Time 7:40:42AM

00180 JUDICIAL BRANCH

Version 2005B0100180

**Project:** Case Management Systems Review

Priority - 3 Application Replacement

**Project Description**

This project provides for an analysis of the long-term viability of the judicial case management systems to fulfill the needs of the Judicial Branch and the people of North Dakota.

The analysis will include a review of the information systems to determine if they need to be replaced. If replacement is deemed necessary, the analysis will recommend alternatives for replacement systems.

**Description of Business Need or Problem Driving the Project**

As current information systems age and internet-based systems become more robust, it becomes evident that the older, legacy systems that have served us well for nearly 15 years may become antiquated and do not include many of the innovations web-based systems contain. Renovations or replacements of those legacy systems will need to be reviewed.

**Description of how Project is Consistent with the Organization's Mission**

The mission of the Judicial Branch is to resolve disputes with justice and efficiency. Having the most efficient information systems possible is consistent with the mission.

**Description of the Anticipated Benefits**

Even with enhancements to current information systems, they may become obsolete. The replacement or upgrade to the current case management system will need to provide benefit such as:

- Web browser based interfaces for ease of access via the internet by the citizens of North Dakota.
- Graphical interfaces to maintain consistency with other information systems and provide an easy-to-use interface for the user.
- The ability to integrate with electronic filing and imaging systems.
- Interfaces with criminal justice and other judicial information systems.
- A consistent, reliable and standardized database for access via off-the-shelf query tools.

**Description of the Impact of NOT Implementing the Project**

Existing systems will continue to be used and modified. New technologies will not be taken advantage of by the Judicial Branch.

# IT Capture Project Details - Agency Budget Request

Date: 11/30/2004

Time 7:40:42AM

00180 JUDICIAL BRANCH

Version 2005B0100180

Project: Case Management Systems Review

## Identify any Risks Associated with the Project

Risks could likely include problems with vendor selection or vendor performance. To mitigate, an appropriate Request for Proposals process and vendor selection process will be used.

Failure to complete the project could be caused by lack of staff time available to complete the project. To mitigate, appropriate priorities will be set and executive sponsorship will be retained.

## Description of Additional Cost, if Any, for the Project

There are no additional costs beyond those budgeted.

Additional Costs for the project that are not included in IT Object Codes

Additional Costs -

Optional Project Costs

**Total Project Cost -**

**Total Project Cost + Optionals**

## Description of Non-Appropriated Funds -

There are no additional expenditures beyond those budgeted.

		<u>CURRENT</u> <u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>REQUEST</u>	<u>OPTIONAL</u> <u>ADJUSTMENT</u>	<u>REQUEST PLUS</u> <u>OPTIONALS</u>	<u>SUBSEQUENT</u> <u>BIENNIUM</u>
IT3008	IT CONTRACTUAL SVCS & REPAIRS	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000	\$0
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
001	STATE GENERAL FUND		\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000	\$0
<b>Total Funding:</b>			<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>

# IT Capture Project Details - Agency Budget Request

Date: 11/30/2004

Time 7:40:42AM

00180 JUDICIAL BRANCH

Version 2005B0100180

Project: Digital Audio Recording

Priority - 3 Ongoing Initiative

**Project Description**

Digital audio recording is technology of recording and storing judicial proceedings on a computer server.

This project will install digital audio recording systems into North Dakota Counties with sufficient caseloads to realize the benefit of its use. It is expected that systems will be installed in the 12 North Dakota counties with the highest caseload volume.

**Description of Business Need or Problem Driving the Project**

Storage on a computer server will allow easy access to testimony and allowing integration of judges' notes with specific portions of testimony for ready retrieval.

This technology, in a network environment, can replace conventional tape audio recording systems, can allow the record to be shared electronically and significantly reduce storage space requirements.

**Description of how Project is Consistent with the Organization's Mission**

The mission of the Judicial Branch is to resolve disputes with justice and efficiency.

Providing a more efficient method of storage and retrieval of the recorded court proceedings is consistent with the mission.

**Description of the Anticipated Benefits**

The benefits include:

- Digital audio recordings will enhance the efficiency of taking the record.
- Instantaneous playback of testimony or portions of proceedings.
- Attachment of queries, motions and bench marking of portions of the proceedings by the judge for later use in research and findings.
- Simultaneous access of the recording by recorder, judge, or authorized individuals, allowing the judge to conduct research from chambers and recorders to prepare the transcripts.
- Sharing of the record by authorized parties.

**Description of the Impact of NOT Implementing the Project**

Use of aging analog tape recorders, storage of tapes and less convenient access to the recorded court proceedings will continue.



# IT Capture Project Details - Agency Budget Request

Date: 11/30/2004

Time 7:40:42AM

00180 JUDICIAL BRANCH

Version 2005B0100180

Project: Digital Audio Recording

## Identify any Risks Associated with the Project

The installation and use of digital audio recording in a courtroom is a complex process. All interested parties must readily embrace the technology; the courtroom's sound amplification system must be adequate; network access for the computers must be adequate.

To mitigate these risks, we will work with the judges, staff and clerk personnel during all phases of the project.

We will also thoroughly review the courtrooms and facilities prior to purchase of a system.

## Description of Additional Cost, if Any, for the Project

There are no additional costs beyond those budgeted.

Additional Costs for the project that are not included in IT Object Codes

Additional Costs -

Optional Project Costs

**Total Project Cost -**

**Total Project Cost + Optionals**

## Description of Non-Appropriated Funds -

There are no additional expenditures being paid out of non-appropriated funds.

		<u>CURRENT</u> <u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>	<u>BUDGET</u> <u>REQUEST</u>	<u>OPTIONAL</u> <u>ADJUSTMENT</u>	<u>REQUEST PLUS</u> <u>OPTIONALS</u>	<u>SUBSEQUENT</u> <u>BIENNIUM</u>
<b>IT3008</b>	IT CONTRACTUAL SVCS & REPAIRS	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$84,177</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$84,177</b>	<b>\$51,000</b>
<b>TI5016</b>	IT EQUIPMENT \$5000 & OVER	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$19,500</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$19,500</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$103,677</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$103,677</b>	<b>\$51,000</b>
<b>001</b>	STATE GENERAL FUND		<b>\$103,677</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$103,677</b>	<b>\$51,000</b>
<b>Total Funding:</b>			<b>\$103,677</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$103,677</b>	<b>\$51,000</b>

# IT Capture Project Details - Agency Budget Request

Date: 11/30/2004

Time 7:40:42AM

00180 JUDICIAL BRANCH

Version 2005B0100180

Project: Continuity Planning

Priority - 2 Ongoing Initiative

## Project Description

In today's world, threats to the security of our information systems can come from many different areas, including computer viruses; worms; hackers, terrorism or the weather. To ensure that critical systems can be operated in the event of catastrophic failure or attack, proper plans need to be developed and implemented. This project seeks to further develop and implement those plans.

## Description of Business Need or Problem Driving the Project

Current information systems have become integrated into the daily operations of the Judicial Branch. Because of the increased reliance, extended outage

Current information systems have become integrated into the daily operations of the Judicial Branch. Because of the increased reliance, extended outage periods for these systems are unacceptable and ways to avoid, reduce or eliminate those outage periods must be reviewed.

An appropriate continuity plan must consider which centralized resources would need redundancy and what level of redundancy would be appropriate for each resource. It must also consider how end users of the information systems would communicate with the resources if the existing network infrastructure were impacted by the same catastrophic event.

## Description of how Project is Consistent with the Organization's Mission

The mission of the Judicial Branch is to resolve disputes with justice and efficiency. Ensuring reliability of information systems is consistent with the mission.

## Description of the Anticipated Benefits

Benefits include:

- Better level of preparedness in the event of a catastrophe or other threat.
- Reduced downtime in the event of a catastrophe or other threat.

## Description of the Impact of NOT Implementing the Project

Without appropriate planning and preparedness, downtime can be significant.